

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

October 16, 2014

### Commission Members Present:

Tim Johnson  
Frank Eastham  
Opel T. Jones, I  
Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot  
Ivette Lopez  
Rev. Turner  
Ilene Kessler  
Bianca Chang  
Giovanna Guarnieri

### Commission Members Absent:

H. Taylor Walls  
Sal Hussain  
Catherine Hyde

### Staff:

Stephanie M. Chapple, Recording Secretary  
C. Vernon Gray  
Barry Sanders, HRC Legal Counsel

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

#### 2. APPROVE MINUTES

September meeting minutes were approved.

#### 3. PUBLIC FORUM - Jack Connelley, student at River Hill High School, attended the meeting.

#### 4. Chair's Report -

- Genevieve chaired the meeting in Taylor's absence. Genevieve welcomed new Commissioners Bianca, Ilene, and Giovanna. Bianca is a former MLK Commissioner, also served as Chair of the MLK, etc. Giovanna is a junior at Reservoir High School. Ilene has been a realtor for 30 years, and accustomed to Fair Housing initiatives.
- Genevieve will follow-up with Taylor regarding letter to Superintendent Foose.
- Genevieve and Taylor will work with Giovanna on initiating the Student Ambassador program. Genevieve and Tim will call student applicants to inquire if they are interested in serving as an ambassador. Congratulations to Genevieve for being inducted in her high school Hall of Fame in Long Island, NY.

#### 5. HRC CASES UPDATE - LEGAL COUNSEL - N/A

#### 6. NEW COMMITTEES/ REPORTS

*Finance and Fair Lending - Genevieve* - Article in Washington Business Journal listed online lenders who will start targeting Marylanders.

*Legislation - Ivette and Genevieve* - Ivette searched the Maryland Legislative website, and found very little information, if any. There are no topics of controversy, possibly due to the upcoming election, etc.

*Education & Community Outreach - Frank, Rev. Turner* - A Roundtable Parent Academy for Hispanic students and parents will meet at Oakland Mills High School within the next few weeks. Frank will share more details regarding PATH. Additionally, the African American Roundtable will work with school system administrators to exchange information, as well as provide tools to advocate for their child in bridging the gap for success.

*Law Enforcement* - No report.

*HRC Awards Program* - Genevieve - Members selected Dr. Mark J. Stout, Curriculum Coordinator for HCPSS as the Individual Award recipient, and the River Hill Cultural Awareness Club as the recipient of the Organization award. Stephanie will contact winners. Ivette will prepare program booklet. Gen will order plaques; Opel will deliver plants, etc.

*Human Trafficking Task Force* - Genevieve - No report

*LGBT Committee* - Catherine - No report.

*Housing - Ivette and Catherine* - No report.

#### 7. STUDENT REPORT - No report

#### 8. STAFF REPORT/UPDATES - All interviews have been conducted. Human Rights Day in Annapolis will be held in February. More details will follow after the holiday break. NAACP - State Conference

Sheraton - Columbia, October 24, 2014 - 7 p.m.

Holland Awards Dinner, Turf Valley Country Club, October 22, 2014 - 6 p.m.

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, New Executive Director - Alvin Gillard, Commissioners' Training Conference, November 6, 2014 - 8:30a.m.-3p.m., Gateway Building, Columbia, MD

9. NEW BUSINESS – Dr. Gray will plan and conduct Orientation for new Commissioners in November. Stephanie will coordinate schedules. Selection of new Investigator still pending.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES – Sat., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> Columbia Association will host a speak-out at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center from 8:30 a.m. – noon. Please call OHR if you are interested in attending.

11. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair adjourned meeting at 9:00 p.m.